COMMANDERS DIGEST

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DOD Defers $620 Million In Military Construction

Department of Defense will temporarily defer $620,000,000 in military construction projects, including $160 million for military housing, following a review of expenditures focused on immediate requirements in direct support of combat forces in Vietnam and elsewhere.

The go-ahead was also given by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara for $686 million in Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps high-priority military construction projects in 36 states, the District of Columbia and at 16 overseas locations.

The secretary emphasized that all projects that are immediately essential for the combat support of the armed forces and those which are urgently required for safety, health, or other compelling reason will proceed as scheduled.

"The decision on realignment of the military construction program, particularly as it affects military housing, was a most difficult one to make," Secretary McNamara said. "Every one of the projects whose start will be delayed has been given careful consideration by the Military Departments and the Department of Defense."

Lt.Gen. J.E. Engler Named Dep. Army Commander, RVN

President Johnson has named Lt. Gen. Jean E. Engler as new Deputy Commander for U.S. Army Forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

Appointment of General Engler to the post formerly held by Brig. Gen. John Norton is an upgrading of rank for the position. No new assignment was given for General Norton.

The White House said the three-star appointment did not indicate any new military build-up.

In his new position General Engler will be second in command to Gen. William C. Westmoreland's assignment as U.S. Army Commander in RVN. General Westmoreland is also commander of all U.S. armed forces in Vietnam, with Lt. Gen. John Heintges as his deputy.

General Engler is presently head of the U.S. Army Supply and Maintenance Command, Washington, D.C. No date has been announced for his RVN assignment.

THIRD AWARD—RAdm. Joseph W. Williams Jr., USN (right), receives a third Legion of Merit for service as temporary commander of U.S. Seventh Fleet (Oct. 9-Dec. 13, 1965) from Adm. Roy L. Johnson, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Admiral Williams has been named Director of Ships Material Readiness, Office of Chief of Naval Operations.

Vice-President Sends Greetings

To the Members of Our Armed Forces:

"Christmas brings us very close to those who are very far from home. Our thoughts go out to our nation's defenders who man such distant ramparts for freedom's sake.

"We wish you a Yuletide rich with blessings. To you, goes the affection, not only of your loved ones, but of a grateful nation.

"It is a long, long way from the little town of Bethlehem to where most of you serve. But the Nativity lights a glow in your hearts and ours.

"These are times of peril; men must fight and sacrifice for liberty. But we hold very dear the message of the Prince of Peace.

"Enemies of God have unleashed hatred and fear upon the world. But we will never forsake the Nazarene's ideal of good will to men.

"We will persevere in our faith.

"Mrs. Humphrey and I join with President and Mrs. Johnson in conveying our greetings to you and your families. Our prayers are with you.

"Your training, your vigilance, your deeds are helping to bring a finer tomorrow for all mankind. Now and in the years to come, may you enjoy the goodness and happiness which your devotion is making possible for so many others."

Hubert H. Humphrey

Washington Memos

TOP ARMY GENERALS, Chairman of the JCS, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler and Chief of Staff, Gen. Harold K. Johnson, are spending Christmas with United States servicemen in the Republic of Vietnam. On return from RVN, General Wheeler will meet with Adm. U. S. G. Sharpe, commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Honolulu, Hawaii. General Wheeler's trip includes stops in Alaska, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Taiwan.

EXHIBITS ON COST reduction will be sponsored by 70 major Defense contractors during five regional Advanced Planning Briefings for Industry to be held in March and April 1966. Exhibits are designed to show how individual contractors achieved efficiencies aimed at giving DOD increased value for its dollar.

AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT DOCK Duluth (LPD-6), last ship built by New York Naval Shipyard, was commissioned in Brooklyn Dec. 18, 1965. Governor Karl F. Rolvaag, Minn., was the principal speaker. Capt. Mark Tremaine, USN, took command of Duluth.

THREE NAVY ICEBREAKERS and glare of sun have broken up nine-square mile ice floe blocking supply channel to McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Icebreakers Glacier, Burton Island and Atka tackled the floe to unplug channel and allow USNS Alatna to enter.

HONORABLE EUGENE M. ZUCKERT, former Secretary of Air Force, addressed alumni and students of Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Ft. Myer, Va., on "The Defense-Industry Team."

AN EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION workshop is being held by The Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga., paving the way for TV equipment in more service schools.

NATO EXERCISE MATCHMAKER II, scheduled by Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, USN, will begin Jan. 11. Ships from Canada, The Netherlands, England and the U.S. will take part in the anti-submarine exercise.

COMPLETION DATE FOR consolidating Department of Defense Contracts Compliance Program (Equal Employment Opportunity Program, Executive Order 11246) under the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Manpower, is early 1966. Since 1961 each service and the Defense Supply Agency has administered the program. Consolidation will bring together a force of approximately 100 industrial employment policy specialists providing greater uniformity and economy.

A PUBLICATION, "INDUSTRIAL Civil Defense Workbook—First Steps to Company Survival," is available to Federal agencies and other interested persons through Assistant Director of Civil Defense (Industrial Participation), Office of Civil Defense, Washington, D.C. 20310. The workbook (FG-F-3.3) gives essential civil defense guidance to local business or industrial facility managers.

AIR FORCE RECENTLY revealed evidence of accuracy and reliability of its newest most advanced deterrent weapon system—Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile. First firing of an operationally configured Minuteman II impacted more than 5,000 miles downrange from launch point at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Air Force reported flight 100 percent successful.

PLANS FOR A new family of satellite communications terminals known as AN/TSC-54 is under study at U.S. Army Satellite Communications Agency as the first step toward start of construction. Designed for tactical-type, quick-reaction military communications overseas, new terminals will be used as ground links in the DOD Initial Defense Communications Satellite Program. Each unit will provide two-way telephone, two-way teletype communications.

ITALIAN MINISTRY OF Defense has concluded agreement with U.S. for technical and financial cooperation in production of F-104 aircraft system. Agreement was signed by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Italian Minister of Defense Guilio Andreotti.

FIRST SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT of a Lockheed C-141 Starlifter with heavy missile and container aboard lasted 2 hours, 14 minutes, Dec. 14 at Marietta, Ga. Fanjet Starlifters modified to airlift Minuteman missile will be delivered to Military Air Transport Command in January for recycling missiles from SAC depots to bases.

ATTACK CARRIER INDEPENDENCE and embarked Air Wing Seven have been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for meritorious service in Southeast Asia. Independence, first Atlantic Fleet carrier to deploy to South China Sea, launched more than 7,000 combat sorties.

SOME 80,000 ENLISTED personnel attained a high school education or the equivalent during FY65. Officer commissions were earned by 16,935 college graduates during the same period through Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs.

FILING SEASON FOR Federal income tax returns starts Jan. 1. IRS officials said taxpayers should begin collecting financial records, such as cancelled checks, receipts, records of contributions, etc., now. Records are especially important to those who itemize deductions.

FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE submarine USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN-644), commissioned Dec. 22 at Newport News, Va., is capable of firing Polaris A-3 missile and is 33rd submarine of its type.

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Background for Commanders

Treaty Negotiations With Panama

The United States and Panama probably will agree during 1966 on new treaties for the existing Panama Canal and a possible new sea-level canal in Panama.

The Panamanians have long been dissatisfied with the 1903 treaty which gave the United States the right "in perpetuity" to control the Canal Zone "as if it were the sovereign." Not only is the 1903 treaty out of date, but the Panama Canal itself, with its limiting locks and channels, is outliving its usefulness. Many modern ships are too big to go through it. Consequently, Congress last year authorized studies of possible sites for the construction of a new sea-level canal.

Progress in Negotiations

The United States and Panama announced jointly Sept. 24 that general areas of agreement have been reached in their negotiations for (1) a new Panama Canal treaty to replace the treaty of 1903 and its amendments, (2) a base rights and status of forces agreements for the U.S. military installations and forces in Panama and the Canal Zone, and (3) a treaty under which there might be constructed in Panama a sea-level canal.

In the announcement, President Johnson and Panamanian President Robles stated that Panama will share with the United States responsibility in the administration, management and operation of the present Panama Canal, Panama will also share in the direct and indirect benefits from the Canal.

With respect to the new treaty governing the present Canal, general areas of agreement have been reached on the following points:

1. Abrogation of the 1903 treaty and its amendments.

2. Recognition of Panama's sovereignty over the area of the present Canal Zone.

3. Termination of the new treaty after a specified number of years, or on the date of the opening of the sea-level canal, whichever occurs first.

4. Provision for the appropriate political, economic, and social integration of the area used in Canal operation with the rest of the Republic of Panama.

5. Appropriate arrangements to ensure that the rights and the interests of all the employees serving in the operation of the Canal are safeguarded.

Methods of financing, constructing, and operating such a new canal are being negotiated. Like the present canal, any new one would be open at all times to the vessels of all nations on a non-discriminatory basis. Congratulating the negotiators for the progress they have made, President Johnson concluded:

"I want to express my confidence in their ability to negotiate the details of these treaties, within the guidelines that have been agreed upon. All that we do is in the mutual interest and the welfare of the United States, Panama, and ... the world at large."

Background

On April 3, 1964, Panama and the United States renewed diplomatic relations, which had been broken by Panama during the violent riots of January 1964. Both agreed to appoint special representatives with sufficient powers to seek the elimination of the cause of conflict between them.

President Johnson had announced in December 1964, that the United States was proceeding with plans for the possible construction of an interoceanic sea-level canal at one of four suggested routes in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. The President also had declared the United States was prepared to negotiate a new treaty for the present Panama Canal. The United States then began intensive negotiations with Panama, and the joint statement of Sept. 24, 1965, reported the results.

The U.S. decided to start negotiating a sea-level canal agreement with Panama before beginning negotiations with other countries having possible sea-level routes. This does not mean the United States has already picked Panama as the new canal location. However, because Panama already has a canal upon which its economy is heavily dependent, the U.S. Government believes she has a legitimate primary interest in any new canal.

The Interoceanic Canal Study Commission will conduct the site surveys and studies necessary to decide all questions about a sea-level canal. The Commission hopes to begin on-site surveys in Panama in early 1966.

RVN Casualty Evacuees Can Get Full Tour Credit

In a review of its disposition policy on military casualties evacuated from the Republic of Vietnam, Department of the Army has advised commanders that evacuees can be given credit for completed overseas tours regardless of time spent in RVN before evacuation.

Officials said the policy is retroactive for men whose most recent overseas assignment involved evacuation. Eligible are personnel in RVN on permanent change of station evacuated to the U.S. for hospitalization or whose hospitalization extends beyond the evacuation policy of the major command.

The injury or disease must have been caused by hostile action or be directly attributable to service in RVN. Men evacuated to off-shore hospitals will generally be reassigned to former units when returned to active duty, unless they have less than 60 days remaining before rotation to the U.S. Time in hospital will be credited toward completion of tour in off-shore evacuations.

Honolulu Memorial Dedication Nearing

The Honolulu Memorial, erected at National Cemetery of the Pacific near Honolulu, Hawaii, by the American Battle Monuments Commission, will be dedicated May 1, 1966.

Monument will commemorate 18,093 servicemen and women lost in the Pacific during World War II and 8,187 lost during the Korean War.

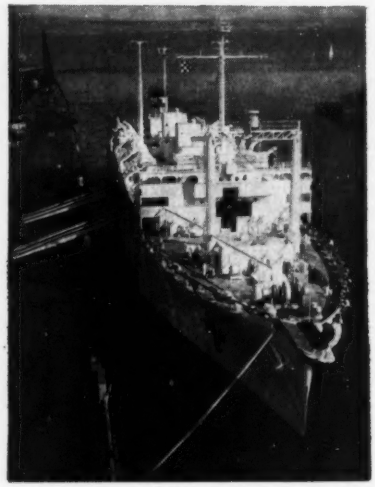
The memorial stands on the inner face of Puowaina crater, an extinct volcano, overlooking the cemetery. There is a Court of Honor high on the crater wall and a chapel within the court with two galleries containing war maps of World War II and Korea. Eight memorial Courts of the Missing flank a seven-tiered stairway rising from the cemetery floor to the chapel.

A thirty-foot statue representing "Colombia" is on the chapel front.

Administration Seminar Is Added to NDEI Calendar

A three-phase incentive contracting program will open the 1966 calendar of the National Defense Education Institute.

The program, designed to permit concentrated analysis of key areas, includes a one-day background briefing, a two-day advanced structuring seminar and a new two-day administration seminar. Sessions will be held during January in New York, Los Angeles and Boston.



GETTING READY—The hospital ship USS Repose is being readied to join the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Army Seeks Cols., LtCols. For Journalism Schooling

Army needs colonels and lieutenant colonels (AUS or RA) with graduate level Journalism or Public Relations schooling for information assignments in policy-making staff positions. Qualified applicants are being offered the opportunity to attend University of Wisconsin or Stanford University on a full time student basis with Army paying tuition and other expenses. Graduate training, taking from 12 to 18 months, will lead to a master's degree in Journalism.

Hospital Ship Repose Set to Serve Again

Navy hospital ship USS Repose (AH-16), once known as "Angel of the Orient" to U.S. personnel fighting in Korea, is again being readied for duty with the Pacific Fleet.

Repose was recommissioned in October 1965 following extensive overhaul and outfitting work at the San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard after having been in mothballs since 1954.

The 15,000-ton vessel is now the only fully operational hospital ship in the Navy and is equipped with the latest in diagnostic and treatment equipment including a heart-lung machine and a frozen blood bank. There are 316 doctors, nurses and corpsmen assigned to her.

AF to Train Some Doctors As Tactical Fighter Pilots

Under a new Air Force program, a small number of medical doctors will be selected each year to train as pilots in order to meet a need for dual skills in aeromedical support, teaching and research.

Four Air Force medical officers have already entered pilot training and two physicians will be selected annually for future training.

After completing the 12-month basic pilot training, each pilot-physician will be qualified in a tactical fighter aircraft and will be assigned to a fighter unit for at least two years.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Navy orders four rear admirals to new posts: **J. D. Bulkeley** to Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla Eight from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; **E. R. Crawford**, Commander, Amphibious Group Two to succeed RAdm. Bulkeley; **T. J. Walker III** to command Carrier Division Three from Deputy Commander (Navy), Joint Task Force Two; and **J. A. Jaap** to Commander, Fleet Air Whidbey Island, Wash., from CinCPac Representative, Strategic Target Planning Office, Offutt AFB, Neb. **Brig. Gen. Arthur H. Adams, USMC**, Director of Information, will succeed **Brig. Gen. Hugh M. Elwood** as CG, Marine Air Reserve Training Command, Glenview, Ill. General Elwood to relieve **Brig. Gen. Marion E. Carl** as Assistant Commander, 1st MAW, RVN.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Oscar Mayer and Co., Madison, Wis.: $1,713,262 fixed-price contract for 973,500 pounds of canned sliced bacon. **(DSA)**

Southern Athletic Co., Inc., Knoxville, Tenn.: $1,586,953 fixed-price contract for 251,040 men's nylon sateen field coats. **(DSA)**

Colt, Inc., Hartford, Conn.: $5,750,000 letter contract for 5.56mm rifles. **(Army)**

North American Aviation Inc., Columbus, Ohio: $7,632,000 fixed-price contract for T-2B Buckeye aircraft. **(Navy)**

Boeing Co., Wichita, Kan.: $3,150,000 fixed-price contract for modification of B-52 aircraft flight control systems. **(Air Force)**